

## FOR A SHORTER DAY

WHEN the company was assembled in the deserted local room of the great newspaper, Rash Act walked to the city editor's desk and rapped for order. There was instant quiet; for the convention had long been projected and all the delegates were anxious to begin proceedings.

"Friends," said Rash Act, "it is unnecessary for me to dilate upon the object for which this meeting is called. As fellow sufferers with myself, you are all aware that while the strides of trades unionism have brought short working days, many holidays, and increased leisure to many classes, we are harder worked to-day than at any time in our history, and there is no rift in the clouds."

At these words there was a stir near the door, and a voice piped, "Mr. Chairman, Rift in the Clouds has just come in and desires to be registered."

"I stand corrected," said Rash Act. "I was not aware that Rift in the Clouds was one of us, though I know he is eligible. However, I will say briefly that the object of this meeting is to discuss ways and means whereby we can secure an eight-hour day, a half holiday on Saturday, and no work Sunday. Nominations for permanent chairman are in order."

"Mr. Chairman!" called a strong voice.

"Smoking Revolver," said the chair.

"I move you, gentlemen," said Smoking Revolver, "that our efficient temporary chairman, Rash Act, be permitted to retain the chair. He has suffered as long and uncomplainingly as any of us, unless it be my distinguished friend on my left, Some Blunt Instrument."

This motion meeting with general approval, Rash Act was duly elected chairman, and Swift Justice was made secretary. These officers being installed, the meeting proceeded to business at once. On calling for general remarks on the subject matter of the meeting, the chairman found half a dozen old friends on their feet clamoring for attention, and he recognized News Spread Like Wildfire, bent and gray from years of incessant work. He said:

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FRIENDS.—I will not presume to speak at any length in the presence of this notable gathering; for I see among those present old friends whose weight of years and labor is nearly double my own.—Coroner Was Notified, Fatal Bullet, Shocking Disaster, and many others. But I think it proper for me to say that the time has come when we should make common cause against a common enemy. (Applause.)

"We have all worked in this newspaper office and in a thousand others seven days a week for uncounted years. We have had no days off, such as are granted to other members of the staff. We labor on holidays, indeed, harder than ever while others rest. I well recall when I first entered the newspaper business, young, fresh, buoyant, and full of hope. Other members of our fraternity, some of whom are present to-day, looked at me enviously and said 'There's a new one.' I remember meeting Department Responded Promptly that day, and my worthy friend, Smoking Revolver, who has since been my close companion, as well as our chairman, Rash Act. But the passing of the years and the unceasing toil they have brought have bowed my frame and dimmed the luster of my general appearance. I appear before you a weak, broken down, old back number, still forced to do duty daily and nightly. But what shall we do? How shall we best bring about a much needed reform?"

At this point the chairman rapped for attention. "The speakers will please confine themselves to the subject," he said, "and avoid personalities. Much Needed Reform is present and anxious to be heard."

Thus reproved, News Spread Like Wildfire bowed to Much Needed Reform in token of apology and concluded, "I suggest that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions embodying our requests for a shorter day, the same to be submitted to the Association of Great Editors at their next annual convention."

"Are there any further remarks?" inquired Rash Act, and Fiendish Deed took the floor. He, too, was old and bent and leaned heavily on a column rule for support.

FRIENDS," he began, "I need tell none of you how desperately hard I have been worked in this business. Why, my experience in the South alone would wreck most of you, and this can be borne out by our secretary, Swift Justice, who has accompanied me in most of my travels in that part of the country. I have appeared as often as ten times in a single week without a half-day's rest. I am old and broken now; but if my declining days could be spent in comparative peace and with dignity befitting my age and constant services, I should pass away content and join Fire Fiend in oblivion."

"One moment," said Fatal Bullet, interrupting the speaker. "Mr. Chairman, it grieves me deeply to hear my lifelong friend, Fiendish Deed, talk of passing away. He who has toiled by my side through all these years,—he who has been my constant companion, together with Smoking Revolver and Coroner Was Notified, through many a toilsome day and night. I cannot bear to hear him talk of passing away. Better could I spare Serious but Not Necessarily Fatal, who has also been my coworker."

"The chair is obliged to call the gentleman to order," said Rash Act. "This is not a session of the United States Senate, designed solely for the expression of eulogies. We are here to transact business, and time is flying. I notice that Shocking Disaster is already nodding in his seat, and that Slight Clue is fast asleep. Therefore, we must hasten. The chair appoints as a committee on resolutions Red Handed Murderer, Unfortunate Victim, and

Agog with Excitement. Pending the report of the committee, the meeting will stand adjourned for one hour."

When the committee had retired to consider the form of the resolutions, the older members of the assemblage gathered to exchange reminiscences. Blunt Instrument, turning to his lifelong companions, Slight Clue and Weltering in Blood, said sadly:

"Attendance upon this meeting crowns a life as long and as full of work as mine has been. Never a day since I first saw the light have I failed to be of some service to my employers. The police and detectives have used me on millions of occasions, and my constant associates, the police reporters of the newspapers, would indeed feel lost without me. But if I am not to be permitted to retire, if all the succeeding generations of newspaper men are to bandy me about as though I were as young and fresh as they are, then such surcease from labor as we seek through our resolutions will be indeed welcome."

Silence followed for a few moments, while the faithful old newspaper servitors were musing.

"I need scarcely say anything about the steadiness of my services," remarked Department Responded Promptly. "I have been in attendance at every fire, conflagration, holocaust, and false alarm for the last thirty years, together with my cousin, Alarm from the Nearest Box. I have lived in a very sea of flame and haze of smoke. I have seen cities stricken down in their pride, and have watched our departed brother, Fire Fiend, in the heyday of his strength and power. Now my only near relations are Fire Laddies, Lurid Glare, and Alarm from the Nearest Box. But I have hope that out of this conference great things may come, and I am ready to vote on any resolution looking to our freedom."

At this point Agog with Excitement returned to report that Red Handed Murderer and Unfortunate Victim were unable to agree on the wording of the resolutions, and Swift Justice was requested to interfere. After a short delay, the resolutions were brought, and read as follows:

"WHEREAS, From time immemorial it has been the custom in every newspaper office inhumanly and brutally to overwork a certain invaluable and indispensable portion of the staff, to wit, ourselves; and

"WHEREAS, The passing years appear to bring no surcease from the continuity of our services or the frequency of their repetition; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That we, the Ancient & Honorable Association of Stereotyped Gags, do hereby protest against such service, and do request that a schedule of hours be arranged by the Associated Great Editors which will release at least one-third of our number from duty for sixteen hours every day, and that we be entirely free from duty at noon on Saturdays."

These resolutions were adopted on motion of Tremendous Enthusiasm, who has been connected with the adoption of resolutions since the beginning of time. Rash Act declared the meeting adjourned, and Some Unknown Mischief, alias the Grand Old Man, who had been sitting quietly in a corner all night, turned out the lights.

## FIRES THAT NEVER GO OUT

IN Siam is a fire that not only lasts for years, but has what have been aptly termed "lineal descendants." It is to be found in a Buddhist temple, near Bangkok, where every fourth year, at a certain period, the priests light a fresh fire in a big brazier. This flame is kept alive for four years, and is in turn extinguished after supplying a brand to ignite its successor. Inasmuch as this practice has obtained for upward of two centuries, the Buddhist fire of Bangkok is, in a sense, the oldest in the world.

Another long-term fire is said to exist at Sarhad, Persia. This flame is a symbol of religious fervor, and it is death to extinguish it, and, it is claimed, it has burned for seventy years. In explanation of this curious rite, it is explained that the Persians, rigid Mohammedans and regarding their former fire worshiping faith with detestation, nevertheless suffer the Sarhad flame to continue to display their gratitude for a service rendered a high official of the Persian Government many years ago. At that time, it is said, a pious Parsee, who had come to trade at Sarhad, was the happy means of saving the Grand Vizir from assassination. So the grateful Shah of that day ordered that the fire lighted by the Parsee should be kept alive indefinitely.

There are some regions of the earth, like those inhabited by the Eskimos, where the motive for retaining fires for long periods lies in the great difficulty of obtaining means for lighting new ones. One traveler reports seeing a fire in Lapland that had not been extinguished in seven years. It had been carried from place to place in an old ship's bucket.

England claims one of the oldest fires in the world, that in an inn called the Checkers, in Osmotherly. This inn, the story runs, has remained in charge of the same family for one hundred years, and during that period the fire in the kitchen has never been extinguished. The keeping up of fires for years at a time is said to be sometimes an incident of a Sicilian vendetta. The wronged individual when lighting his "fire of vengeance" is said to take solemn oath that it shall not be extinguished until his thirst for revenge shall have been satisfied by the death of the offending person. There is on record a trial in Palermo wherein it was shown that the accused, charged with murder, had kept his kitchen fire alight for five years.

## Money Growing Fruit in Washington

Fruit Culture has *all* the attractions of outdoor country life, but *none* of the hard work incident to dairy or grain farming. It is pleasant and profitable. An orchard will produce from \$200 to \$1000 per acre.

Land in the Wenatchee Valley, Washington, was considered almost worthless *ten or twelve years ago*. Today this same land is worth from \$300 to \$2500 per acre, according to the improvements and productiveness of the orchard.

There are many localities in Washington where you can get *good fruit land* at \$100 per acre and upward. Where the soil is the same volcanic ash, and which, with irrigation, will produce as abundantly as any land in the state.

If you are looking for an opportunity to invest *your money* where it will yield big returns, you will find these productive fruit ranches *very profitable*. A net profit of \$1000 per acre is not uncommon. Many orchards will show *average* returns of \$500 per acre year after year.

For a man of small means and large family, Washington is the *ideal place*. A *good income* can be had from five or ten acres of fruit land.

Why work for others in a city where rents are high—where advancement is slow and the work hard, when with a few hundred dollars and five years' work you will be independent?

The Wenatchee Valley, the Lake Chelan Country, Kettle Falls District and the Okanogan

Country present opportunities to secure the best kind of land adaptable to fruits. Within a few miles of the city of Spokane are several irrigated tracts which are easily reached from the city by electric cars. Many find it *pleasant and profitable* to buy a small tract and work in the city while waiting for the trees to come into bearing.

Another fine proposition is the Okanogan Irrigation project, which is being built by the *United States Reclamation Service*. This project, now nearly completed, will water 9,000 acres of as fine fruit land as any in the state. The land is held in private ownership now, but as *forty acres* is the maximum amount one person is *permitted to hold*, the owners are *compelled* to sell down their holdings to that amount. It can now be purchased at from \$150 to \$300 per acre.

Klickitat County has some splendid valleys where apples are grown without irrigation. White Salmon, Underwood and Stevenson offer splendid inducements in this line.

The Puget Sound Country has several districts where small fruits, such as berries, cherries, plums, etc., do well.

Washington apples are shipped to all parts of the world, so you see the market is unlimited.

Learn what others are doing in Washington—how **THEY** are succeeding and what the chances are for **YOU** to make money and become independent. We have just issued an illustrated book describing all the sections referred to and will mail you copy free on request.

Send today for free Washington Bulletin No. 79.

Low Rates to Washington Daily During March and April

ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION,  
Seattle, June 1 to October 16, 1909.

ROSE FESTIVAL, Portland, Ore., June 7-12, 1909.

NATIONAL IRRIGATION CONGRESS,  
Spokane, Wash., Aug. 9-14, 1909.



MAX BASS  
General Immigration Agent  
220 South Clark Street  
CHICAGO, ILL.

502  
FILL IN AND CUT OUT THIS COUPON AND MAIL TODAY  
MAX BASS, 220 So. Clark St., Chicago.  
Please send free Washington Bulletin No. 79 to the undersigned.  
NAME.....  
TOWN.....  
STATE.....